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*In Congressional  
Relationship*  
OLC RECORD COPY

OLC #77-0728  
14 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : Proposed Expansion of Congressional Briefings

1. This is in response to your request for my suggestions on a plan to expand Agency briefings to other committees of Congress to be more responsive to Congressional requirements.

2. I feel that this plan is too narrow to meet Congressional requirements. Our support should not be limited to briefings alone. In order to make this program meaningful, and to be of maximum benefit to the committees of Congress, I suggest that the DDI come up with a list of Agency publications on the various subjects that the DDI has identified plus other subjects which may be of Congressional interest. If we can provide periodic reports of interest we should be able to satisfy committee requirements with periodic briefings as needed. The listing of publications should indicate levels of classification and purposes for which they are prepared to determine if Congressional dissemination is appropriate. The first crack should list all unclassified publications of subjects considered appropriate since most committees can better utilize the information. If this program is to be meaningful, a positive program should be established to prepare unclassified publications on subjects of high interest which would be prepared specifically to meet Congressional needs. Perhaps the economic, agriculture and energy committees are good examples of prime customers. Hopefully, this could be done without adversely affecting meeting the Agency's statutory requirements within the Executive Branch.

3. Before making any contacts, we should keep in mind that certain committees may not want classified information since this inhibits full utilization of the information and creates security problems; i.e., clearances, storage, etc. A clear example is Chairman Olin Teague, House Science and Technology Committee, who has made it clear many times that he does not want his Committee involved in classified information. He feels such information is unnecessary to carry out the responsibilities of his Committee and, as he has stated, he finds it difficult to distinguish classified from unclassified information and might inadvertently reveal classified information. Contacts with this Committee, and with other committee chairmen sharing this view, must be carefully handled.

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4. Accordingly, I suggest the following be considered:

a. A list be prepared of Agency publications, both classified and unclassified, concerning all subjects which are considered to be of Congressional interest. This overall listing would then be reviewed to determine which therein best meet Congressional needs with preference given to unclassified publications.

b. A program be initiated whereby analysts will be aware of this continuing Congressional interest and will prepare, wherever appropriate, unclassified publications for Congressional requirements which hopefully eventually would become recurring on a continual basis.

5. Perhaps I am looking too far ahead in what I propose; but if it has any merit, I urge it be initiated as soon as possible.

STAT

Assistant Legislative Counsel

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OLC/PLC/mg (typed 14 March 1977)

cc: cps

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7 March 1977

NOTE TO: PLC

Pat:

I appreciate your thoughtful memorandum of 2 March 1977 concerning proposed congressional briefings. I think there is much merit in your suggestion concerning publications, both unclassified and classified. Your points concerning the procedures and even the wisdom of briefings of other committees, other than the normal oversight and foreign relations type committees, has already been decided, however. Admiral Turner made it clear before the Senate oversight committee (the SSCI at his confirmation hearing) that he plans to provide substantive intelligence and I believe he used the words briefings to all committees of Congress having an interest in them. The SSCI is therefore on notice of his intention and I really don't think the House Armed Services Committee will show that much interest in the procedure one way or the other. I do believe, however, that it would be worth advising Bill Hogan and John Ford of Admiral Turner's commitment and providing them with an extract of his confirmation hearing that covers this point. With respect to your memorandum, I would like you to redo it as a memorandum to me omitting the suggestions that we clear the question of congressional briefings with our oversight committees but retain the recommendations concerning publications. I understand Tiger Teague's position with respect to material, but the fact that he as Chairman of the Committee feels a need for access to classified information on occasion somewhat belies his statement. Certainly with respect to the other committee members. In any event, if a chairman decides he does not want classified briefings or materials, we are certainly not going to force them on him. Admiral Turner merely wants us to approach committees and offer briefings to them on matters which are of particular interest to them on a current basis. If you will redo your memorandum, I will send it to the DDI with a copy to Turner with a covering note from me.

GLC

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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

George L. Cary  
Legislative Counsel

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

16 March 1977

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S  
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

DDI

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Attached is a memo written by [redacted] offering suggestions in furtherance of Admiral Turner's desire to make more information available to the Congress. I think it is worthy of consideration and would appreciate your views.

George L. Cary

cc: DCI

STAT